

Weekly Column for August 2, 2007

Welcome to what has to be one of the hottest days of the year. In an effort to make sure we felt the full effects of the sun today, we held a press conference on the roof of Hedley Park Place to announce a new mesh wireless network throughout the downtown area.

This announcement is another positive step towards creating a unique and positive environment in the City of Troy. Whether we are providing residents with amenities or businesses with incentives, we must continue to do all that we can to bring people to the City of Troy. Through the combined effort of many people this is the latest step in our goal to make Troy a 21<sup>st</sup> century destination.

Trying to break it down into laymen's terms, a mesh network is a co-operative infrastructure of individual wireless transceivers (a wireless mesh) that have Ethernet capabilities. Businesses in Troy have banded together to install antennas on their buildings that are now networked together so that if one network goes down, another network can pick up the signal and essentially heal itself.

It is very interesting technology. The following buildings in downtown, and one in Green Island, participated in the project, allowing downtown from the riverfront east to be covered with wireless access:

- The Police Station
- The Fire Station
- Hedley Park Place
- Flanigan Square
- The Atrium
- Rivers Edge Apartments (Green Island)

We are blessed to have companies like Cornerstone and WiFiFee that not only believe that wireless access is integral for the future successes of our city, but are also willing to deliver a product that meets our needs across the board. The partnership the City has formed with these companies, and those who allow access to their buildings, will be a great benefit down the road.

What we must capitalize on, what we must work diligently to ensure happens, is we fight for our future in regards to the recently announced Sematech move. With the changing conditions of the Capital District, we need to make sure Troy is ready to pounce on new arrivals to our City.

All too often in the past, people have sold the City of Troy short. We would wait to see how an event played out before becoming involved. We can no longer do that. We must position ourselves to be ready for an influx of new people. We want them to live here. To work here. To visit here.

You may remember that last year, the City of Troy announced a partnership with Cornerstone and WiFiFree to provide wireless access to the riverfront. Thursday's announcement strengthens that signal and people in Troy may access the Internet from their laptop as often as they want for Free by simply connecting to WiFiFree and agreeing to watch a short video advertisement every two hours.

Users that want faster access without commercials would connect to WiFiFree and simply pay on the spot with their credit card for this premium service.

It really is a wonderful opportunity that I am happy we could accomplish.

Stay cool, and have a wonderful weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy